

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 623

By Bell

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the Tennessee Wesleyan College president, student body, alumni, faculty, and staff on the occasion of the school's 150th anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those exemplary educational institutions that have made significant contributions, through an abiding commitment to excellence, to their respective communities and to this State; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee Wesleyan College (TWC) is most assuredly one such noteworthy institution; over the past one hundred and fifty years, Tennessee Wesleyan has produced outstanding graduates who have excelled in all walks of life and has remained a pillar of educational excellence since its founding in 1857; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee Wesleyan College, located in Athens, is a private, four-year liberal arts institution affiliated with the Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church; TWC is committed to providing a quality, liberal arts education and promoting integrity and responsibility in a Christian environment, where students can mature intellectually and socially and acquire the confidence to serve in an ever-changing global community; and

WHEREAS, founded as Athens Female College in the building now known as Old College, TWC has experienced seven name changes over the decades, including Grant Memorial University in 1886, in an effort to secure financial support for the deeply indebted southern college from northern states and benefactors; and

WHEREAS, serving as a junior college from 1925 to 1954, Tennessee Wesleyan College awarded its first baccalaureate degrees on June 1, 1957; today, TWC offers four degrees and thirty-two academic majors in the traditional liberal arts and a number of professional and pre-professional programs; and

WHEREAS, the College is renowned for its teacher education and certification programs while its religious studies department's pre-seminary program has a solid history of alumni successfully completing graduate programs in divinity and theology at Duke, Wake Forest, Drew, and Emory Universities; and

WHEREAS, partnered with Fort Sanders Medical Center in Knoxville, the nursing department also thrives as one of the most credible programs in the State and continues to expand; and

WHEREAS, the esteemed institution boasts a twelve to one student to faculty ratio, allowing faculty to get to know each student as an individual; and

WHEREAS, TWC's commitment to excellence extends to its athletic programs, as well; the College is a Division II member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics and fields baseball, men's and women's basketball, cheerleading, men's and women's cross country, men's and women's soccer, men's and women's golf, softball, men's and women's tennis, and women's volleyball, with plans to add men's lacrosse for the 2007-2008 season; and

WHEREAS, since 1999, TWC has produced six All-American athletes and twelve All-American Scholar athletes, has claimed fourteen conference titles and two regional titles, has made five national tournament appearances, and has received two NAIA Champion of Character Awards; and

WHEREAS, in the fall of 2005, Tennessee Wesleyan experienced its highest enrollment in forty years and its second highest in the history of the institution; with 865 students, current enrollment has increased seven percent over 2002, with ninety-four percent of its students receiving some type of financial aid; and

WHEREAS, the construction of a new apartment-style resident hall is slated for occupancy in the fall of 2007; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee Wesleyan College has provided a quality education to some of our finest and most capable young people who have gone on to become leaders in their cities and states and who have achieved success in many different areas of life; and

WHEREAS, from its hallowed walls have gone future clergymen, missionaries, educators, college presidents, lawyers, doctors, business and industrial leaders, federal judges, state judges, governors, congressmen and state legislators, and military leaders; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee Wesleyan College continues to be a bastion of excellence in academics and in life, molding young minds into the scholars and leaders of tomorrow; and

WHEREAS, the members of this body find it appropriate to pause to recognize and celebrate the 150th anniversary of Tennessee Wesleyan College; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate the Tennessee Wesleyan College president, student body, alumni, faculty, and staff on the occasion of the school's 150th anniversary and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.